

OFFICIAL

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

JULY 19, 2007

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, July 19, 2007 at the North Cumberland Middle School, 400 Nate Whipple Highway, was called to order at 7:30 p.m., by Chairman Frederic C. Crowley, with the following present:

Frederic C. Crowley, Chairman, Robert Thibodeau, Vice Chair, Karen MacBeth, Clerk, Lisa Beaulieu, Donald J. Costa, W. David Wagner, Earl T. Wood

Also Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent; Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration

I. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Thibodeau.

II. Approval of Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the agenda.

III. Chairperson's Report - The Chair reported something good; he and Dr. Morelle attended the Reading Program at BF Norton and with Principal Maloney handed out awards. Mr. Crowley spoke to Mr. Prignano about the Northern RI Collaborative and hopes Mr. Prignano can examine their books.

IV. Comments from the Public - Mr. McLaughlin reported raising \$3,000 for special needs students and thanked Ms. MacBeth for her help. He also asked not to cut positions and in regard to healthcare, not to spend what you don't have. Ms. Lambert noted teachers in other communities are getting their class lists and Cumberland teachers don't even know what grade they are teaching. The Chair recognized Town Council members Lemoi and Ackerman in the audience.

V. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Finance Committee

1. Payment of Bills - Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$455,142.21. Mr. Costa provided a second. Mr. Wood noted he couldn't approve the first register as it is for the '08 budget and there is no budget. Mr. Wagner explained that is the workers comp invoice and if it is not paid the insurance would be canceled. Mr. Wood also noted there was an item tabled at the last meeting and didn't see it on the register. It was determined that was the court ordered tutoring invoice.

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Mr. Wood made a motion to table Register #5 to the next meeting. Ms. Beaulieu provided a second. On a roll call vote, the motion FAILED 4-2, with one recusal, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wood, Ms. Beaulieu; NAY: Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Mr. Costa, Mr. Crowley; RECUSED: Ms. MacBeth. Mr. Rotella commented there was no conflict of interest since this was court ordered and the colleague did not vote.

On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE payment of invoices, with the following voting AYE: Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Mr. Costa, Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Mr. Wood.

2. Amendment to Durham School Services Transportation Contract - Mr. Wood made a motion to table. Mr. Thibodeau provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Costa, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Mr. Wood.

3. Award of Contracts - Approval of Energy Source Proposal - On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE removing from the table.

On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the contract.

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Personnel Recommendations - The Superintendent presented the following:

1. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wood and Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the appointment of Donna Zannelli, Assistant Principal at Cumberland High School, as per agreement effective 7/23/2007. (Advanced Lane; N/A; Co-pay 20%; Budgeted). The Superintendent introduced Ms. Zanneilli.

2. On a motion by Mr. Crowley, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the resignation of Lisa DiPaola, World Language Teacher at Cumberland High school, effective 7/3/2007.

3. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. Beaulieu, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the resignation of Teresa Smith, English Teacher/English Department Chairperson at Cumberland High School, effective 6/29/2007.

VII. Approval of Minutes - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE tabling since there were no dates.

VIII. Old Business

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A. Building Committee Update - Mr. Wood reported work continues at the high school. The 2010 Building Committee will meet this Monday at 6:00 p.m. at the Public Library and the 3.5 Building Committee will meet Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. at the Public Library. He noted the cement was cut at Ashton School in front of the administrative offices. The Chair recommended giving information on the security system to Mr. Prignano to present to the finance subcommittee.

B. Recalls - The Superintendent reported there were no recalls.

IX. New Business

A. 2007-08 Budget Reconciliation/Update - The Superintendent made opening remarks about the process and the original budget of \$52,122,107; the town reduction of \$831,638 and state aid reduction of \$414,000, adjusted revenues of \$50,876,469 leaving a shortfall of \$1,245,638. The following recommendations were made:

1. Increase Interest Income - On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE increasing interest income by \$50,000.

2. Medicaid Reimbursement - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the increase in the medicaid reimbursements line by \$80,000. Mr. Prignano explained this is based on actuals.

3. Surplus FY 2006 use in FY08 - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the surplus of \$137,355. Mr. Prignano explained there is nothing that disallows this practice. Mr. Costa suggested looking at Pre-K tuitions and the Superintendent will look at that.

4. Consolidated Resource Plan Fringes - On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Ms. Beaulieu, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE the one time adjustment of \$103,000, with Mr Wood voting against. The Superintendent explained this is from how money is allocated from state and federal grants for benefits.

5. RIASC Dues - The Superintendent recommended the review of the dues of \$6,795. On a point of order, Mr. Costa noted the June 28th minutes report the committee voted to approve the membership for \$6,200. The Chair ruled the committee took the action to join and the amount was an estimated amount. Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to approve the increase of \$6,795. Ms. MacBeth provided a second. Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to approve the increase of \$6,795. Ms. MacBeth provided a second. Mr. Wood objected to voting and objected to adding to the budget. Mr. Costa repeated Mr. McLaughlin's comment not to spend money they don't have. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 4-3 TO APPROVE the motion, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Mr. Wood, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Costa.

6. Workers Comp Policy - Increase - The Superintendent noted there was a 20% increase in the Workers Comp Policy.

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Mr. Thbodeau made a motion to approved the increase in Workers Comp by \$27,000. Ms. Beaulieu provided a second. Mr. Costa noted the newspaper indicated there would a 5-6% decrease. Mr. Prignano explained he saw that as well, but as of now the policy shows the increase but he will research this. The Superintendent noted the action could always be reversed.

Mr. Wood made a motion to table. Ms. MacBeth provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 4-3 TO APPROVE the motion, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wood, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Costa, Ms. MacBeth; NAY: Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Mr. Crowley.

7. Master Leases - Total \$327,953

- a. Capital - Master Lease Ashton - \$7,029**
- b. Capital - Master Lease Community - \$4,200**
- c. Capital - Master Lease Cumberland Hill - \$7,593**
- d. Capital - Master Lease Garvin - \$1,100**
- e. Capital - Master Lease BF Norton - \$4,361**
- f. Capital - Master Lease Preschool - \$1,000**
- g. Capital - Master Lease McCourt - \$14,700**
- h. Capital - Master Lease NCMS - \$7,500**
- i. Capital - Master Lease High School - \$8,900**
- j. Capital - Master Lease Special Ed - \$30,870**
- k. Capital - Master Lease Technology - \$238,000**

I. Capital - Master Lease All Other Depts - \$2,700

The Superintendent explained it is a reduction in services, not equipment. Mr. Prignano explained this is a mechanism to work with the town to purchase a large amount of capital items at one time and pay it back over a five year period at a lower rate. Mr. Prignano will discuss with the town's finance director how this would be handled. The first payment won't be due this year. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** the recommendation in the amount of \$327,953.

8. Capital Improvements Facilities - Mr. Prignano noted some of the projects in the capital improvements line are being done under other projects and explained there would be money for the roof at BF Norton stating there is money available from the Technology Director's line that wasn't used the whole year. On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was **VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE** the recommendation in the of amount of \$336,240, with Mr. Wood voting against.

9. Business Office Purchased Services - Mr. Prignano explained this came from the fixed assets line. On a motion by Ms. Beaulieu, and a second by Mr. Wood and Mr. Thibodeau, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** the recommendation in the amount of \$15,000.

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10. Business Office Purchased Services - Mr. Prignano explained this is the from the purchase of copiers. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the recommendation in the amount of \$11,280.

11. Facilities - Electricity - The Superintendent explained this is a savings based on the energy source proposal. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the recommendation in the amount of \$17,114.

12. 10 FTE's Teachers - The Superintendent explained this would be the following positions: behavior specialist, .5 K, .2 soc studies, .6 math, 3 special ed, 1 enrichment specialists at the elementary level and not to expand the library program at the elementary level for \$398,645, including the retirement benefits of \$51,983 and medical benefits for \$55,000. Mr. Costa made a motion to merge the 10 FTE Teachers, Retirement Benefits and Medical Benefits. Mr. Wagner provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 5-2 TO APPROVE the motion, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wood, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Costa. Mr. Costa requesting holding off on special education. The Superintendent explained they are looking at hiring a consultant to review the services they are providing. The Chair asked if the Superintendent will be asking the Commissioner of Education for a waiver to add students to the special education classroom and she explained she has been talking to neighboring districts that do have waivers before the Commissioner. She noted positions can always be added to the budget.

On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 5-2 TO APPROVE the motion, with the following voting AYE: Mr Wood, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Costa.

13. 4 FTE Teacher Assistants - The Superintendent explained these are non-mandated Kindergarten positions for \$72,000. Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the recommendation. Mr. Thibodeau provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 4-3 TO APPROVE the recommendation with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wood, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Costa, Ms. Beaulieu.

14. 1 FTE HVAC - The Superintendent explained this is a new position for \$40,089. Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to approve the recommendation. Mr. Costa provided a second. Mr. Costa felt this position is extremely needed with the new additions. Mr. Landry spoke about the importance of this position. On a roll call vote, the motion FAILED 5-2, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. Beaulieu; NAY: Mr. Wood, Mr. Wagner, Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Costa, Mr. Crowley.

15. Retirement 4 FTE Teacher Assistants - Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the recommendation in the amount of \$6,405.. Mr. Thibodeau provided a second.

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On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 4-3 TO APPROVE the motion, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wood, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Costa, Ms. Beaulieu.

16. Medical 4 FTE Teacher Assistants - Mr. Thibodeau made a motion by Mr. Thibodeau to approve the recommendation in the amount of \$22,000. Mr. Wagner provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 4-3 TO APPROVE the motion, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wood, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Costa, Ms. Beaulieu.

17. Unemployment Compensation - Mr. Prignano explained it was assumed if there were lay offs there would unemployment compensation and he figured it at \$86,184. Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to approve the recommendation. Mr. Wagner provided a second. On a roll call voted, it was VOTED 5-2 TO APPROVE the motion, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wood, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Costa. The Superintendent noted there were no actions required on page two. She was open to discussion but there could be no votes and will speak to the Chair and Mr. Prignano to schedule another budget meeting.

X. Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent thanked everyone in the audience for their patience. She explained that she sits on the regional board of regents for the Northern RI Collaborative and will have the Executive Director meet with the School Committee regarding the recent media reports on the land purchase and their

budget. The attorney for the Collaborate would also attend. Dr. Morelle reported they are back in the office at the high school and recommended anyone who needs to come to the business office, park at the Drop Zone and come through the Transitional Cafeteria.

XI. Comments from the Public - Mr. McGarry spoke about the health insurance coverage. Mr. McLaughlin requested the committee to consider the best coverage for the teachers.

XII. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - Mr. Costa requested putting the Lacrosse Team on the next agenda for discussion. Mr. Thibodeau stated it was time to sit with the CTA on the health care issue.

XIII. Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion and/or Action Items Referred to in GLRI 42-46-5

A. Personnel Matters - Exception (1)

1. CTA/ICSE

B. Negotiations/Litigation-Exception (2)

1. CTA/ICSE

2. Central Administrators' Contracts

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3. Non-Contractual Salaries

4. Potential Litigation

Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Mr. Wagner provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE the motion with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Costa, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Mr. Wood. Open Session recessed at 9:47 p.m.

Open Session reconvened at 10:38 p.m. without Mr. Crowley and Mr. Costa. The Vice Chair heard a motion by Mr. Wagner to seal the Executive Session minutes. Mr. Wood provided a second It was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE the motion.

XIV. Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE adjourning the meeting at 10:39 p.m., without Mr. Crowley and Mr. Costa.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shirley Harris

Recording Secretary

Approved by the School Committee August 16, 2007